

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

MISTIANN LAPO,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNIFORM FACTORY OUTLET OF  
WASHINGTON LLC, d/b/a UNIFORM  
DESTINATION, ET AL.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-01013-JHC

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' Proposed Protective Order, which the Court construes as a stipulated motion for a protective order. Dkt. # 7. The Court has considered the motion and, for the reasons discussed below, DENIES it without prejudice.

"There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." Local Civ. R. 5(g). But the Court may issue a protective order "for good cause" under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c). Local Rule 26(c) states:

The Court may enter a proposed stipulated protective order as an order of the court if it adequately and specifically describes the justification for such an order, it is consistent with court rules, it does not purport to confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, *its protection from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles*, and it does not presumptively entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 Local Civ. R. 26(c)(2) (emphasis added). The Court’s Model Stipulated Protective Order states  
2 that “[t]he parties must include a list of specific documents such as ‘company’s customer list’ or  
3 ‘plaintiff’s medical records;’ do not list broad categories of documents such as ‘*sensitive*  
4 business material.’” W.D. Wash. Model Stipulated Protective Order,  
5 <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/sites/wawd/files/ModelStipulatedProtectiveOrder.pdf> (emphasis  
6 added).

7 The Proposed Protective Order defines “confidential” material as, among other materials,  
8 “sensitive employee files and records pertaining to any party or non-party.” Dkt. # 7 at 2. This  
9 item is overbroad and does not list a specific category of documents. It is also circular, defining  
10 “confidential” material to include any employee record that is “sensitive.” This item thus does  
11 not comply with Local Civil Rule 26(c)(2) or the Model Stipulated Protective Order.

12 The Court DENIES the Motion without prejudice. The parties may file a revised  
13 Stipulated Protective Order.

14 Dated this 31st day of August, 2022.

15 

16 John H. Chun  
17 United States District Judge  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24